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SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 1912.

### THE PLUNDERER PREVAILED.

Despite the fact that the West fee bill was refused consideration by the House yesterday, the Times-Dispatch hopes that the fight to take it up will be renewed today. Many voted against its consideration yesterday because they misunderstood the purpose of the bill, which is only to require fee officers to report to the Auditor of Public Accounts the amount of fees annually received by them, and to keep fee books. That is all. This bill does not destroy the fee system or in any way affect it or diminish the compensation of any fee officer. We believe that there are many legislators who voted against consideration yesterday who would like to be recorded in favor of consideration, because they voted under a misapprehension. Delegate Hugh A. White tried to explain the bill yesterday, but the fees of publicity would not even allow him to do that. As it is, the thirty-eight legislators who yesterday voted against the consideration of the bill must be regarded as having denied to the people their right to know what wages they pay their public employees. Forty-six legislators are recorded as favoring publicity for the people, and only five votes were needed to show a clear majority for the bill. Let the vote be taken again today, and a majority will show itself on the ballot, and it will be made even clearer that the fees of publicity checked off a majority.

The Plunderer had its inning yesterday. Its lobbyists were here, there and everywhere, expostulating, demanding, threatening, thanking and begging. The officeholders carried the day, but the people came to bat in the next inning, and we very much mistake the temper of the people of Virginia if they do not beat the officeholders' gang to a frazzle. When the next elections are held for the House legislators who seek re-election will be called upon to explain why they voted against this bill. They can give no reason; the officeholders have never been able to find a reason upon which to base opposition to the bill. All that Delegates Cox, Daniel, Coleman and Oliver and the others who fought the consideration of this bill yesterday could do was to raise fine parliamentary points.

Where was the Richmond delegation yesterday? Every Richmond member opposed the consideration of the bill except Delegate Harwood, who was not in the hall at the time of the vote, although he had been observed there only a short time before. Delegate Curtis voted against considering the bill. Delegate Greener, who is the special representative of the laboring people of Richmond, voted against considering the bill which would let them know what wages their fee officials get. Delegate Cox, who has been mentioned prominently as a candidate for the speakership, voted against consideration of the bill yesterday. The House is generally considered the popular branch of the General Assembly; it follows that its Speaker should be, above all, a representative of the people and a champion of their rights, as was Speaker Byrd yesterday in voting for the consideration of the West fee bill.

The action of Delegate Cox will necessarily have the effect of weakening his claims among the thoughtful supporters of democratic government. Delegate Harwood did not vote, on August 22, 1911, the following resolution was made in the Times-Dispatch of Mr. Harwood speaking before the East End Citizens Association of Marshall Ward, Mr. Harwood then being a candidate for the House: "Colonel John S. Harwood took occasion to speak of the fee system of paying public officials, mentioning the earnings of the clerk of the Supreme Court of Appeals as larger than that of the Governor of Virginia." Why should Mr. Harwood have mentioned that if he approved of it on a condition? Did he not disapprove of it? Lastly we welcome to Delegate Harwood, August 22, 1911, at a session of the Virginia Bar Association a motion was made to appoint a committee of three who "shall inquire and report" in 1912, among other things, "whether the clerks of the Supreme Court of Appeals at Richmond, Staunton and Wytheville should be paid appropriate fees, as at present." Speaking upon this motion, Mr. Harwood said: "I wish to say that the resolution will be adopted." He then read a part of an editorial from the Times-Dispatch urging that the clerks of the Supreme Court of Appeals be paid salaries instead of fees. "I will not read this editorial except to say that in no uncertain way it states that the cost of taking appeals in this State has been shown by the facts to be too large."

he said. Mr. Montague, of course, voted against the resolution. Yesterday he voted against considering the West bill, which would reveal the amount of fees paid these same clerks of the Supreme Court of Appeals and afford the information upon which to base a reduction of the cost of appeals. How can anybody find out what these clerks get and whether or not they ought to be paid fees or salaries unless there is fee publicity? The fee officers will not tell, and they are now the only ones who know; the West bill would unseat their lips.

All honor and praise to the forty-six good men and true who voted yesterday for the people's right to publicity! Each one of them deserves the commendation of his people for his patriotism and his courage to say "no" to the Plunderer. The fight was turned on yesterday, but the day will come when it will search and shiver those who voted against publicity for the people.

### GOVERNMENT BY THE GALLERIES.

"I have examined this proposed method of reversing judicial decisions on constitutional questions (the recall of decisions) with care. I do not hesitate to say that it lays the axe at the foot of the tree of well ordered freedom and subjects the guarantees of life, liberty and property without remedy to the fiftful impulse of a temporary majority of an electorate," said President Taft at Toledo yesterday in his most profound and ablest public utterance. Calmly and serenely, above the tumult and the shouting of the madmen of the mob, this ex-judge knocks the anarchistic phase of Rooseveltism into a cocked hat. "It was long ago recognized that the direct action of a temporary majority of the existing electorate must be limited by fundamental law; that is, by a Constitution intended to protect the individual and the minority of the electorate and the non-voting majority of the people against the unjust or arbitrary action of the majority of the electorate," asserted the President, adding:

"The judges are to decide between individuals on principles of right and justice. It is a complete misunderstanding of our form of government, or any kind of government, that expects justice and righteousness, to assume that judges are bound to follow the will of a majority of an electorate in respect of the issue for their decision. In many cases before the judges that temporary majority is a real party to the controversy to be decided. It may be seeking to deprive an individual, or a minority, of a right secured by the fundamental law."

Every man who believes in a government of right and not a government of might should read Mr. Taft's speech. Clearly and understandably he presents the case and an unanswerable argument for the independence of the judiciary. The President appeals to the reason of a thoughtful people who respect their institutions and are not forgetful of their history; Mr. Roosevelt, in mock heroic melodrama, shoots holes in a scarecrow and bows to the galleries. The difference between Mr. Taft and Mr. Roosevelt is that Mr. Taft knows what he is talking about.

### THE MERRIMAC AND MONITOR.

Fifty years ago to-day in Hampton Roads the engagement between the iron-clad Virginia, known popularly as the Merrimac, and John Ericsson's queer turreted chaise-box, the Monitor, put the old navies of the world out of commission and laid the foundation for all modern naval construction. On March 8, 1862, the Virginia practically destroyed the United States fleet in Hampton Roads. Returning on March 5, she met the Monitor, just arrived from New York, and in an engagement of four hours forced the Monitor to withdraw. This was the birth of the Dreadnought.

The anniversary is being celebrated in various parts of the country. The Swedes of Chicago are presenting to the National Museum in Washington a picture of the fight. In the South, silent services of memory are recalling grim days when the triumph of an iron-clad meant patriotic hope, and her defeat but a sterner determination to fight for faith in a cause. Most worthy of celebration is the courage of those naval innovators, of both fleets, who gave their lives in furthering the strange science of war. They battled even beyond their time out of a belief in the genius of man to master his engines. Their bravery was of duty rather than of martial glory. Within the year the Monitor sank in a storm, with all on board. Whatever the lessons of the long strife, they proved the abiding quality of American valor; and it they made war more terrible, their efforts may have only built the iron vestibule through which some day, man shall enter the quiet graves of peace.

### A GOOD LAW PASSED.

The General Assembly is to be congratulated upon the passage of the bill providing a colony for the feeble-minded. No wiser or sounder piece of constructive legislation has been enacted during the present session than this law to permit of the segregation and care of unfortunate mental derelicts. At a small cost it begins a great ultimate economy. It is as if the Legislature had put in a purifying plant that will cleanse and make beautiful the very stream of life itself in this State for the next hundred years. The saving in actual money cannot be estimated, yet even this economy bulks as nothing beside the gain in a strong, vigorous, unpoliticized citizenship. Greater than all else is the sense that in some measure a cause of untold suffering has been cloistered out forever. This is, in the best sense, legislation for tomorrow.

It should be a source of something deeper than pleasure for them to feel that by this action they have removed from thousands of homes the possibility of the grim shadow of a mysterious visitation. Approval would not be complete without pointing out the efforts of Dr. H. U. Stephenson, in the House, and of Senator Nichols, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. The latter in the face of a sincere desire for economy, when finally convinced of the true economy promoted by the measure, had the courage of his convictions and lent his strength to the passage of the bill. The efforts of the charitable and corrective agencies back of the bill also deserve hearty commendation.

In passing this bill and enacting a vital statistics law, the Assembly has shown a real progressive spirit. They are fundamental improvements in the social structure. Equitable tax assessment and clean elections are no more important than strong bodies and clean minds in the people for whom the taxes are spent and the elections held.

### NOT MR. MUSE.

Misinformation, The Times-Dispatch yesterday said editorially that Treasurer George M. Muse, of Roanoke, spoke against the West fee publicity bill at the hearing before the House Committee on Finance, and we further declared that he had been charged with not desiring the election to the auditorship of an other Donohoe. Mr. Muse informs us that these statements are not correct, and the Times-Dispatch, having been incorrectly informed, and having confused Mr. Muse with another treasurer, very willingly withdraws its remarks concerning Mr. Muse. We have no desire to misrepresent any one and would do no man an intentional injustice.

Uncle Simpson Pepper says that a young fellow with a new-laid mustache eating a plate of hot soup has to face a problem that no woman can ever understand.

A Los Angeles man takes nitroglycerin for a heart tonic. Shaking hands with this walking bomb must be a process accompanied by a mild thrill.

I Turco-Arabi sotto il fuoco Italiano si sbandarono, ripiegarono e si ritirarono in caracena sin oltre il valle del Wadi Boumafer dove i nemici persero posizioni sulle collinette all'intorno.

This is but one paragraph from an account of the war in Tripoli. General Sherman's remark about war remains true under modern conditions. Andy Carnegie, what is your Dovecote of Peace at The Hague doing, when sin can wade into the Boumafer dove and sully its internal collinette in this abandoned fortress?

Miss Christabel Pankhurst must have used her feminine intuition when it came time to give Scotland Yard the slip.

Casultery is a word difficult to pronounce without bling the tongue, but its meaning is clear as strained honey. To the Oracle of Oyster Bay, we recommend looking up its definition in that codification of human wisdom compiled by the learned Webster. Under section 2, it is written: "False reasoning about morals and duties."

The North Pole's still alleged, 'tis said; the South Pole just a rumor. The equinox a fairy-tale, and latitude plain humor. The equator no one ever saw; the tropics themes for laughter. And "short and ugly" the only law for explorers, now—or hereafter.

A hat in the ring resembles a fool's cap.

If the members of the Administrative Board are to receive \$5,000 apiece, every citizen ought to qualify now to vote upon who shall receive this money.

Alexandria, Manassas and Fredericksburg are pushing the Quebec-Miami Highway out to Richmond. In more ways than one Richmond should take steps to make the ends meet.

"Progressive" politics is a case of progressive mischief—'with La Follette winning the booby prize.

A parcels post would come in right handy for pretty near anybody about Christmastime.

No more "Turkey Trotting" or "Grizzly Bear" is to be allowed at Fortress Monroe. Which shows that the horrors of war are nothing compared to the horrors of peace.

Colonel Roosevelt's ire must be in an awful fix these days from lack of sleep. Everything anybody says arouses it. And a man cannot be too careful of his only ire.

The Legislature did right to turn down Columbus Day as a legal holiday. It was Columbus' silly curiosity about the earth's roundness that put us where we are to-day. Otherwise, things would still be on the level.

### VERSE FOR TO-DAY

Telepathy.  
A thousand cruel miles hold us apart,  
But still I feel her gentle spirit high;  
For let me reach time and distance both  
And find a mystic union heart to heart.  
The west and west meet in the highest sky;  
The zenith of our hope is in our love,  
And so our spirit, like a heavenly dove,  
Unto the haven of my heart must fly.  
—HENRY LEWIS

### On the Spur of the Moment

By Roy K. Moulton

His voice is gently pleading as to tone  
And epigrams roll blithely from his tongue.  
He tells some merry stories of his own,  
That Henry VIII. enjoyed when he was young.  
The opposition's arguments he chokes,  
The rival candidate he loves to choke.  
By hanging out side-splitting quips and jokes  
From Doc Hestetter's Family Album.

His argument is terse and to the point,  
He asks, "Why does a chicken cross the street?"  
His hearers laugh themselves all out of joint,  
And say they won a victory complete.  
His first jokes make the enemy look sick,  
His second starts the foe upon the run.  
His third joke sends them going double-quick,  
His fourth one sees the party's battle won.

"How will the trusts be wiped out from the map?"  
"I'll tell you—when a joke comes without fail."  
"You ask me how about the noxious Japs?"  
"It's this way," then he tells another tale.  
"When will we fix the tariff? Ah!"  
"That's easy. Listen well and you shall hear."  
He tells a funny story, then with glee,  
One that we heard in vaudeville last year.

He works up to his climax swift and sure,  
And mops his forehead brow and swings his arms—  
"This mighty nation's certain to endure  
Throughout the ages, free from ill and harm."  
The audience then gives a rousing cheer,  
The band plays and the people leave the hall.  
On what they've heard they're not exactly clear,  
But 'twas a rattling good speech after all.

The orator winks secretly a wink,  
And says unto himself in bed at night:  
"I'm not exactly certain, but I think  
I struck that bunch of patriots, all right."

According to Uncle Abner,  
Dr. Wiley says good cooking is the best cure for the divorce evil. But the lawyers could cook up something to offset that.

A solonist says insects have reasoning power. Certainly. The moths know right where to tackle a dress suit.

Although they say nothing is impossible in this world the Turkish navy needs to be that it isn't.

New York papers say Vice-President Sherman dined in a Waldorf-Astoria cafe and was not recognized. Mr. Sherman was always a lucky man. Henry James has written a new book which will probably be understood and greatly enjoyed by all the college professors.

China's republic seems to be made up of about as many different elements as her chop suey.

Mr. Carnegie says it is hard for the average man to live within his income. But it is easier for the average man to live within an income than without one.

Charles Francis Adams says George Washington was a military blunderer. Mr. Adams can evidently do one thing that Washington couldn't.

John D. Rockefeller's income is said to be \$15 a minute, but he hasn't got very much on the plumb line at that.

But what the Republican national committee thinks about it is not going to cut very much figure with the nomination when vox populi gets to going good.

John D. Works is not a headline concerning Mr. Rockefeller, but is the name of a California Senator.

The Republicans fear a dark horse. Ah, Booker Washington, perhaps.

### Voice of the People

A Plan to Form the Richmond Society of the Archaeological Institute of America.

To the Editor of the Times-Dispatch: Sir,—At the Christmas meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America it was unanimously voted to organize a branch of the Institute in Richmond. I am very deeply interested in the plan, because it furnishes the proper platform off of our classical interests in Virginia. We have formed a vigorous Classical Association of Virginia, in which the languages and literatures of Greece and Rome are cultivated. We need the Richmond Society of the Archaeological Institute of America, because it involves the study of history and art of antiquity, and thus furnishes the needed supplement to our classic ideal.

The Women's Club has kindly invited the general secretary of the Institute, Professor Mitchell Carroll (the Octagon, Washington), to speak to them on the general subject on Monday afternoon, March 18, at 4:30 o'clock. Professor Carroll will speak on "Thirty Years of American Archaeological Achievement," and the president of the Women's Club, Mrs. Moses D. Hoge, has very courteously offered to provide me with invitations for all who are interested in classical culture and art, and I am glad to hear Professor Carroll on March 18.

I hope it will be possible to make arrangements to have a second address of such a character. The respondent will be asked to give a paper on the subject, and I am writing to Professor Carroll on the subject, in hopes that Professor Carroll may speak under the auspices of his alma mater.

### Abe Martin

It looks like the conscience wave was going to skip over Doctor Mopps said John Tuler was going to better pay for his planner now.

### A FASHIONABLE CHRISTENING.

By John T. McCutcheon.

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ated this respondent, in writing, on April 23, 1911, that he must begin tearing down said building immediately, and this respondent then notified said complainant and his tenant, as set forth in said bill, a copy of said written notification of said Building Inspector is herewith filed as a part of this answer, and marked "Exhibit R. E. No. 1."

Considered by Building Inspector as dangerous in the fall of 1910, requested Building Inspector to postpone until he could see a proposed tenant, from whom he received a proposition on April 26 of the following year, accepted same on April 26; the Building Inspector then gave the building next day, months and years after, had said that the building was dangerous.

The tenants of this building lost their right of notice and had to move, and thereby a prominent real estate agent, dependent on the growth of the city, are referred to as representing "shacks."

"But in the City Hall and among those familiar with the workings of Inspector Beck's office, only one opinion is advanced, and that is that the bill should not pass."

It does not pass, let us copy the Baltimore Code, which, contrary to the City Attorney's opinion, does allow an appeal from the Inspector to three disinterested building experts, one selected by the owner of the property, one by the Inspector, the two selecting a third.

Practical and expert action could be as quickly obtained before such a body as before the Police Court, and with less cost. It is very probable that the Police Justice, as well as such a man holding as he does the destiny of the party in his hands.

It will be a sad day for the Democratic party when Mr. Bryan "is put out of business." In the language of the late Senator Vance, when that day comes, "the party will walk out of itself, and leave behind only a small of bratons."

ARMISTEAD BURWELL, Clarksville.

What is the steepest slope of earth upon which one can... HILL CLIMBER.

About 55 degrees is considered the utmost possible limit without the aid of the lads.

Old Second Baptist Church. Please state when the spire of the Old Second Baptist Church blew down.

September, 1856. The day is not recalled. If it be of importance enough it may be found in the files of any city paper for the month in the State Library.

The Kinsman Company. Will you give the address of the Kinsman Meat Company in Richmond?

1327 East Cary Street. The city in which a prominent concern is located is always sufficient address without the addition of street and number.

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